

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SY-05 CPR-01 /046 W

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P R 251550Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8336

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR CZ US

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK POLICE CONFISCATE USIS FILM

1. ON AFTERNOON JUNE 25, CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL (REPRESENTATIVE OF INVALID'S ASSOCIATION) WHO HAD BORROWED FILM FROM EMBASSY FILM LIBRARY WAS STOPPED BY POLICE AS HE LEFT CHANCERY. HE WAS FORCED TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION, DATA FROM WHICH WAS NOTED, AND GIVEN CHOICE OF "COMING WITH US" OR RELIQUISHING FILM. HE CHOSE LATTER ALTERNATIVE. POLICE THEN TOLD HIM THAT IF HE WISHED TO GET FILM BACK,

HE COULD GET IT FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

2. IN ABSENCE OF CHARGE (WHO IS ON OFFICIAL MFA-SPONSORED TRIP OUTSIDE PRAGUE) POLITICAL COUNSELLOR SOUGHT AND OBTAINED IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH NOVOTNY, ACTING HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT IN ZANTOVSKY'S ABSENCE. POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PAO, PROTESTED POLICE ACTION TO NOVOTNY, STRESSED THHAT INCIDENT WAS FIRST OF ITS TYPE IN SOME 20 YEARS OF OPERATION OF FILM LIBRARY, AND ASKED IF THIS ACTION WERE INDICATIVE OF CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON PART OF GOC TOWARDS ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

3. NOVOTNY, APPARENTLY SINCERELY, DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT BUT PROMISED TO CHECK WITHMINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE
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STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN GOC POLICY

VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. NOVOTNY INDICATED ANSWER COULD BE EXPECTED
FROM ZANTOVSKY EARLY NEXT WEEK. EMBOFFS STATED EXPECTATION
THAT--AT A MINIMUM--U.S. GOVERNMENT-OWNED FILM WOULD BE
RETURNED. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FREEDOM OF ACCESS
TO FILM LIBRARY WHICH HAD OBTAINED OVER MANY YEARS WOULD
CONTINUE.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONFISCATION, DETENTION, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, MOTION PICTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750221-0117
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750617/aaaaapgm.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK POLICE CONFISCATE USIS FILM
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CZ, US, USIS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006